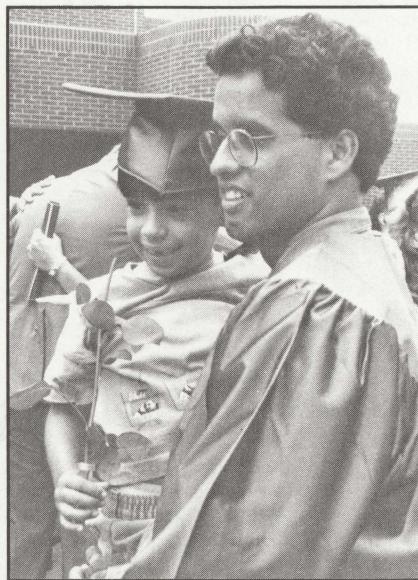
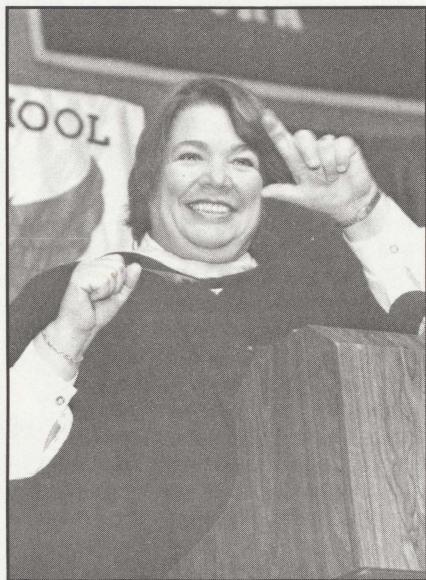


on the GREEN

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(Left) Deaf actress Mary Beth Miller addresses MSSD's Class of '93. (Right) A youngster, inspired by graduation festivities, dons his mortarboard a few years early.

Tarbox named Presidential Scholar

Mechelle Tarbox, a recent Model Secondary School for the Deaf graduate, has been named a Presidential Scholar in recognition of her talents and accomplishments as an actor. She is the first MSSD student—and believed to be the first deaf person—to earn this honor.

On June 21, Tarbox will perform at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and on June 23 she will receive her award from President Bill Clinton.

By now, Tarbox must be starting to get used to breaking barriers. This winter, she became the first deaf actor to win top honors in the prestigious Arts Recognition and Talents Search (ARTS) acting competition for high school students. As a student selected from 150 ARTS finalists for the top of three levels of placement, Tarbox won a scholarship award of \$3,000 and a nomination as a Presidential Scholar.

Although other MSSD students have been finalists or received honorable mentions in past ARTS competitions, Tarbox is the first to become a Presidential Scholar, according to Tim McCarty, coordinator of Theatre Production at MSSD.

Most Presidential Scholars are recognized for academic accomplishments. Up to 121 high school seniors nationwide are chosen from a field of about 2,500 semifinalists who earn a high score on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) or the American College Test (ACT). In addition, up to 20 students are recognized for excellence in the arts as identified through the national ARTS program competitions for actors, dancers, musicians, visual artists, and writers.

Tarbox has been affected profoundly by the newest honor. "It increased my confidence in my deafness," she

said. "Before, I was worried that I'd be rejected from jobs because of my deafness, but now the Presidential Scholars program recognizes deaf people can do it. I feel more that I can do anything—there are no limits.

"I'd like to break [down] the wall . . . make hearing people more open minded about deaf people—not just for myself, but for others." For her performance at the Kennedy Center, Tarbox is wavering between a selection from "Miss Julie," a play about an insane, dominant woman, and a selection from "Juvie," about an apathetic teenage drug addict.

Thinking back to the selection process for the Presidential Scholar honors, Tarbox asserted that it wasn't fair to expect deaf competitors to have English skills as good as those of hearing competitors because "deaf and hearing people have different languages." ARTS Presidential Scholars nominees had to write essays to be considered for this honor. "The essay had to have perfect grammar. I doubted I could do it—I got someone to help me, but I was still doubtful. I was happy that they recognized that deaf people have a language. We're smart, yes, but not good at English."

As remarkable as her accomplishments may be, Tarbox's talents were not always so obvious. When McCarty first met Tarbox, he said, "I thought, 'There's no hope for the kid.' She had great enthusiasm but no control." Tarbox, however, had a stubborn streak. She kept working on her acting skills. "Like magic, she changed," McCarty said. "Something happened inside. Something clicked. Now the foundation is laid. It'll be interesting to see where she goes from here."

MSSD awards 96 diplomas June 5

Ninety six graduates—making up one of the largest graduating classes in the 23-year history of commencement at the Model Secondary School for the Deaf—received diplomas at a June 5 commencement ceremony in the Field House.

It is perhaps reflective of MSSD students' pride in American Sign Language that the three key speeches at their graduation reflected the picturesque power of ASL.

The speeches were given by Mary Beth Miller, a deaf actress; Mechelle Tarbox, the class salutatorian, who is also an actress; and Joseph Josselyn, the class valedictorian.

Milner, who has acted in "Children

of a Lesser God" and in National Theatre of the Deaf productions, confided to her audience that she felt strange giving a speech instead of performing. "It's not easy!" she said. She proceeded to demonstrate just how true that statement was by using one of her hands to represent her desire to perform and her other hand to represent her sense of duty to the task of giving a proper speech.

"I want to perform!" said her left hand.

"Pay attention! This is graduation!" her right hand admonished.

"Are some of you scared? I was too," she said, joking that she had

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KDES special athletes go for the gold

the 100-meter relay. Shakemia Jenkins also won a gold medal as an all-around gymnast.

About 1,100 volunteers from the metropolitan area helped plan and staff the event. More than 2,000 area law enforcement officers, including officers from Gallaudet's Department of Safety and Security, participated in the Eighth Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run to open the games and to raise funds and awareness for the games.

Gallaudet has hosted the D.C. Special Olympics since its inception in 1969. "I can't say enough about the support of the University throughout the event," said James Schumtz, director of sports and coach's education for D.C. Special Olympics.

The Special Olympics began in the early 1960s at Soldier Field in Chicago, Ill., with 1,000 athletes taking part in the games. Today, more than one million children and adults with mental retardation participate in Special Olympics Programs worldwide.



Champions pause for an on-camera interview as they leave the winner's platform at the 25th Annual D.C. Special Olympics Summer Games, held at Gallaudet May 27-29.



MSSD grads rejoice at the end of 12 years of school and the beginning of adulthood.

MSSD's class of '93 graduates

continued from page 1

been unable to hold back her tears at her own graduation from the Kentucky School for the Deaf in 1961.

"Now you have more responsibility," Miller said, observing that the 70 percent of the graduating class who will enroll in postsecondary educational programs this fall—many at Gallaudet—will need to remember to do their own homework, while those who get jobs "will have a responsibility to the workplace."

Miller encouraged students to be active in the deaf community, to support ASL, and fight for their rights as individuals.

She closed her speech with a performance, telling a story of a group of old men who try, and fail, to blow out a candle. A woman comes to the rescue, snuffing out the candle with her moistened fingers.

Tarbox gave the salutatorian presentation—an ASL poem about the growth experienced by MSSD students as they move through their four years of high school. The freshman year is a nervous and confusing one, Tarbox reflected, but by the senior year anxiety has diminished and is replaced by

knowledge.

Josselyn gave an address that, like Miller's, was half speech and half performance. He used ASL to demonstrate various ways in which people manifest their talents. But talent is not enough, he said; determination is important too. "Flying is not easy. You must go through storms and waves, the difficulties of life. Don't give up. Keep flying."

Students with high grade point averages (GPA) were recognized during the ceremony. Three Gold Eagles—Josselyn, Tarbox, and a hearing American Field Service exchange student, Janelle Jung—earned a GPA of 3.75 or above, and 22 Silver Eagles earned a GPA between 3.25 and 3.75.

The class of 1992 established a scholarship fund last year to support a graduating student in the class of 1993; the award was given to Maureen Yates.

The Peter B. Hobbs Memorial award for school spirit was given to Carla Shird.

Diplomas were awarded by Vice President for Pre-College Programs Harvey Corson.

Christopher Robert Zelnio, the last student to receive a degree, dragged himself across the stage like a man crossing the desert to reach an oasis. "My diploma!" he exclaimed, adding, "Long live the class of 1993!"

On the Green

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Announcements

The Department of Sign Communication is offering a lab in July and August for staff members who wish to brush up on their sign skills. The labs will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:30-4 p.m., beginning July 1. For more information and to register, E-mail ADSUTCLIFFE.

a recent graduate of the Library School of Catholic University. In addition to her duties of promoting library resources for the deaf community and heightening awareness of communication needs and accomplishments of the local deaf community, Rosen will continue as coordinator for the literacy project.

Among Ourselves

Dr. Robert Davila has been named headmaster of the New York School for the Deaf, White Plains, N.Y. Davila served as assistant secretary for the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services in the U.S. Department of Education during the administration of former President George Bush, and was formerly vice president for Pre-College Programs at Gallaudet.

Karen Peltz Strauss, senior staff attorney for the National Center for Law and Deafness, was awarded the Latham Breunig Humanitarian Award by Telecommunications for the Deaf, Inc. (TDI) June 4 at its 10th biennial convention in Anchorage, Alaska. Strauss received the award for her legal counsel on telecommunications issues affecting the deaf and hard of hearing community.

Classified Ads

Classified ads are printed for Gallaudet faculty and staff. Ads must be submitted in writing, in person or by mail, to *On the Green*, MSSD, Room G-37. Off-campus phone numbers must include an area code and whether the number is voice or TTY. Ads may be run two weeks if requested and if space permits. In compliance with the Education of the Deaf Act of 1992, as amended, payment of \$1 per ad per printing must accompany each ad. Ads received June 14-18 will be printed in the June 28 issue.

FOR SALE: Mahogany hutch, table w/6 chairs and custom pad, old, exc. cond., \$975. Call (301) 681-3293 (V).

FOR RENT: Furnished room in Bladensburg, Md., apt. avail. through August, \$250

mo. inc. util, 10 min. from Kendall Green. Call Lydia, x5447, or E-mail LOOLUGBODI.

FOR SALE: Portable TTY, new cond., w/carrying case, \$149 new, price nego. Call Tom, (703) 255-9483 (V).

FOR RENT: 3-BR bayfront home, Fenwick Island, Del., 3 mi. from ocean, full view of sunsets, \$75/night or \$450/week. Call Roz, x5351, or E-mail RROSEN.

FOR SALE: Oak desk, \$1,000 new, \$700/BO; king-size walnut headboard, \$75/BO; bench, upholstered top, \$25/BO; folding mahogany dining table w/2 chairs, \$100/BO. Call (301) 589-5006 (TTY), (301) 725-4519 (TTY), or E-mail LCJACOBS.

WANTED: Signing male attendant to take deaf male wheelchair user on errands and other events on an as-needed basis, driver's license required, salary nego. Call L. Jacobs (301) 589-5006 (TTY).

FOR RENT: Large room w/2 closets, private bath, Montpelier, Laurel, Md., \$350/single, \$450/double, inc. util. Call (301) 604-6977 or (301) 490-8397 (TTY).

FOR RENT: 2-BR apt., less than 1 block from Kendall Green, \$585 plus util. Call (301) 322-7372 (V).

FOR SALE: New glass top dining table w/4 chairs, sofa table, glass end table, two upholstered chairs. Call x5040 or, after 6 p.m., (301) 439-1460 (V).

Job Openings

Some of the advertised positions may already be filled. The list below includes only new staff and faculty openings and does not represent all jobs available. To get a recorded message describing the complete list, call x5358 (V) or x5359 (TTY).

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST:
National Academy

MANAGER, GROUNDS SERVICES:
Physical Plant Department

INSTRUCTOR: Department of Government
BUSINESS EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR:
Technical Studies, Northwest Campus



Communication specialist Darlene Moore poses with her winning entry in the KDES Deaf Heritage Committee poster contest, held to promote signing at all times. The 18 entries can be seen at KDES's main floor mall. The contest committee was co-chaired by Melvia Miller-Nomeland, curriculum and evaluation teacher, and Roslyn Gannon, sign language teacher. The judges were Dennis Berrigan, ASL/Deaf Culture Program coordinator; Wendelin Daniels, Art Department manager, and Ruth Reed, instructor aide.